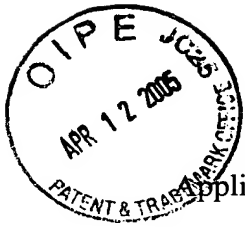


EFW

Attorney Docket 017700/0143



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yukihiro KOMATSU
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND VISUAL INSPECTION SYSTEM
Appl. No.: 09/672,901
Filing Date: 09/29/2000
Examiner: A. Carter
Art Unit: 2625

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 AND § 1.97**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a modified Form SB/08 is a listing of a document known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

The submission of such a document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE AND FEE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

CONCISE EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

Document E1 was cited in a European office action during prosecution of a counterpart European application. Document E1 is in English. A copy of the European office action is enclosed.

The submission of the European office action should not be considered as an agreement with, or an admission of, what is asserted in the European office action.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed document be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 12, 2005

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Attorneys for Applicant

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Date Submitted: **April 12, 2005**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/672,901
Filing Date	09/29/2000
First Named Inventor	Yukihiro KOMATSU
Group Art Unit	2625
Examiner Name	A. Carter
Attorney Docket Number	017700-0143

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	E1	5,659,624		FAZZARI et al.	08/19/1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
								A
								A

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.